

Appl. No. 09/646,745
Amdt. date February 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 17, 2003
Express Mail No. EL 978300634 US

REMARKS

Applicant requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth below.

CLAIM 38

Claim 38 has been canceled.

CLAIMS 39-43 and 46-48

Claims 39-43 and 46-48 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 39 has been rewritten in independent format and is now allowable.

Claim 40 has been rewritten in independent format and is now allowable.

Claim 41 has been rewritten in independent format and is now allowable.

Claim 42 remains dependent on claim 41. Claim 42 is now dependent on an allowable independent claim 41 and should be allowable.

Claim 43 has been rewritten in independent format and is now allowable.

Claim 46 has been rewritten in independent format and is now allowable.

Claim 47 has been rewritten in independent format and is now allowable.

Claim 48 has been rewritten in independent format and is now allowable.

CLAIMS 44 and 49-51

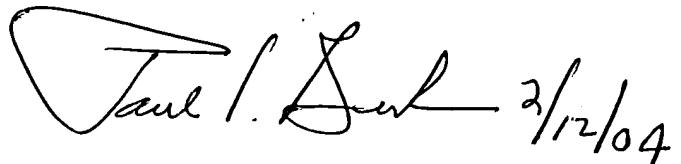
Claims 44 and 49-51 were rejected as being anticipated by Emerson '399. Claims 44 and 49-51 have been amended to be dependent from claim 47 which is an allowable claim. Because claim 47 is allowable claims 44 and 49-51 should also be allowable.

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Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims now in the application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Beck", followed by the date "2/12/04" written in a slightly different hand.

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